AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated, heat-stable, anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective compound derived from a Lactobacillus bacterium, wherein the compound is an inhibitor of NF-κB activation.

2. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the compound is present in an ether-extracted fraction of a ~~the~~ probiotic-conditioned medium.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the compound is an organic acid.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein the compound induces the expression of a heat shock protein ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of Hsp25 and Hsp72.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The composition of claim 6, wherein the compound inhibits NF-κB activation by stabilizing IκB.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the compound is a proteasome inhibitor.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 8, wherein the proteasome inhibitor selectively inhibits the chymotrypsin-like activity of the proteasome.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 8, wherein the proteasome inhibitor selectively inhibits the proteasome in an epithelial cell.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 10, wherein the epithelial cell is an intestinal epithelial cell.

12. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the probiotic-conditioned medium is conditioned by *Streptococcus thermophilus*, Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium ~~VSL#3-conditioned medium~~.

13. (Currently amended) A method for treating a patient with an inflammatory disorder comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~an isolated anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective compound derived from a probiotic-conditioned medium~~.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the probiotic-conditioned medium is VSL#3-conditioned medium.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the inflammatory disorder is an inflammatory bowel disease.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is selected from the group consisting of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 ~~24~~, wherein the compound ~~inhibitor~~ selectively inhibits a protease activity of a proteasome in an epithelial cell.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~26~~, wherein the epithelial cell is an intestinal epithelial cell.

28. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ~~an isolated anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective~~ compound according to claim 1 ~~derived from a probiotic-conditioned medium~~ and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28 ~~35~~, wherein the compound ~~proteasome inhibitor~~ selectively inhibits a protease activity of a proteasome in an epithelial cell.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 ~~37~~, wherein the epithelial cell is an intestinal epithelial cell.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A method of producing the compound according to claim 1 ~~an isolated, anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective compound~~ comprising,

obtaining a VSL#3-conditioned medium; and

isolating an anti-inflammatory, heat stable, cytoprotective compound that is an inhibitor of NF-κB activation from the VSL#3-conditioned medium, thereby producing the ~~an isolated, anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective~~ compound according to claim 1.

41. (Original) A method of screening for a modulator of monocyte chemoattractant protein - 1 (MCP-1) release, comprising:

(a) combining a candidate modulator, a probiotic-conditioned medium, and an epithelial cell;

(b) measuring MCP-1 release by said cell; and

(c) comparing the MCP-1 release in the presence, and absence, of said candidate modulator, wherein a difference in said MCP-1 release identifies the candidate modulator as a modulator of MCP-1 release.

42. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the stabilized IκB is phosphorylated IκBα.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the ~~anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective~~ compound does not alter the ubiquitination level of at least one protein amenable to ubiquitination in an epithelial cell exposed to said compound.

44. (Currently amended) A method of preventing an inflammatory disorder comprising administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~an isolated, anti-inflammatory, cytoprotective compound derived from a probiotic-conditioned medium~~.

45. (Original) A method of screening for a modulator of heat shock protein expression, comprising

(a) combining a candidate modulator, a probiotic-conditioned medium, and an epithelial cell;

(b) measuring heat shock protein expression in said cell; and

(c) comparing the heat shock protein expression in the presence, and absence, of said candidate modulator, wherein a difference in said heat shock protein expression identifies the candidate modulator as a modulator of heat shock protein expression.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein said modulator alters the activity of Heat Shock Transcription Factor-1 (HSF-1).

48. (Original) A kit for treating or preventing an inflammatory disorder comprising a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28 and instructions for administration of said composition to treat or prevent said disorder.